

Docket No. 500.43492X00
Serial No.10/772,377
Office Action dated March 6, 2007

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 1-16 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-18 remain pending in the application.

In the Office Action of March 6, 2007, claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Regarding this rejection, the Office Action Indicates that the claims defined various functions without any structure relating to the apparatus. In particular, the Office Action notes that various functions are performed without any clarity as to what components perform these functions and how the various components are interrelated.

By the present Amendment, Applicants have revised the claim language to better include the structures that perform functions of the present apparatus. For example, independent claim 1 has been amended to define a paper-like sheet discriminator that has a thickness detection device to detect the thickness of paper-like sheets. The paper-like sheet discriminator comprises:

wavelength extracting means for extracting signal waveform with less than a specified wavelength from a thickness signal detected by said paper-like sheet thickness detection device,

appearance positions extracting means for extracting appearance positions at which amplitude of the signal waveform extracted by the wavelength extracting means has amplitude not less than a constant value appear,

collating means for collating the thus determined appearance positions by the said appearance position extracting means with precedently stored appearance positions on said paper-like sheet at which the amplitude of the signal waveform with less than said specified wavelength has the amplitude not less than the constant value appear, and

judging means to judge genuineness/spuriousness of said paper-like sheet,

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wherein said judging means judge whether or not the appearance positions extracted by said appearance positions extracting means with the appearance positions on said paper-like sheet at which the amplitude of the signal waveform with less than said specified wavelength has the amplitude not less than the constant value appear so as to discriminate genuineness/spuriousness of said paper-like sheet.

Independent claim 1 now provides structural limitations for performing the functions of the discriminator. The Office Action had indicated that such features were not available in the claims. According to independent claim 1 a wavelength extracting means is provided for extracting the signal waveforms. Appearance position extracting means are provided for extracting appearance positions of signal wave forms having an amplitude that is no less than a predetermined constant value. Collating means are provided for collating the appearance positions with predetermined stored appearance positions. Judging means are then provided to compare the authenticity of the paper-like sheet going through the discriminator. Further, according to independent claim 1, the judging means determines the authenticity of the paper-like sheet by determining whether or not the appearance positions extracted by the appearance position extracting means from the paper-like sheet have an amplitude of the signal waveform that is not less than the predetermined constant value.

Various amendments have also been made to claims 2-16 to address similar issues of indefiniteness and incorporate the structural components of the claimed invention.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims satisfy the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

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The Office Action indicated that no prior art was available to anticipate or render the claimed invention obvious. Accordingly, the claimed invention is believed to be patentable over the art of record.

For the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is believed in order, and courteously solicited.


If the Examiner believes that there are any matters which can be resolved by way of either a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

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AUTHORIZATION

Applicants request any shortage or excess in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, and for which no other form of payment is offered, be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.43492X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: June 6, 2007